1999. Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Murasoli Maran visited China for the Sixth Meeting of the India-China Joint Group on Economic Relations, Trade, and Science and Technology, held in Beijing on February 21-22, 2000.

The President stated in his Address to Parliament on February 23, 2000 that he would undertake a State visit to China in May 2000.

Our two countries share similarily of views on several international and regional issues. Both sides feel that friendly and co-operative relations between India and China would contribute to peace, stability and economic development of the region and the world. At the same time, we have unresolved bilateral issues that we would like to see addressed in a meaningful manner.

Incidents of Racist attacks on Asians

2971. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether incidents of racist attacks on Asians particularly on Indians, have become alarmingly more frequent and vicious according to a London based report published in the Hindustan Times dated 17-3-2000.

(b) whether people behind such operations are reportedly nicknamed "Operations Napkin"; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to look into this matter at diplomatic level in consultation with concerned countries without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) Government have seen the report published in the Hindustan Times of 17-03-2000.

(b) "Operation Napkin" was the codename for an undercover operation carried out in March, 2000 by the Gloucester police in an attempt to try and identify racists.

(c) The Government of India has a consistent policy against racism of all kinds. The Government is monitoring the situation continuously. The Indian High Commission in London is in touch with the concerned authorities of the British Government to ensure that Indian nationals are not being targeted in racist attacks.